

Meeting Minutes
Permanent Commission on the Status of Women
March 12, 2014, 12:00 PM – 2:00 PM
Nash School, Augusta

Welcome

Present: Elizabeth Ward Saxl, Regina Rooney, Jessica Maurer
Participating via conference call or GTM: Jennifer Burke, Marianne Moore, Samantha Lott Hale, Rebekah Smith, Amy Gallant, Andrea Irwin, Holly Stover
Absent: Fatuma Hussein, Sarah Reuf-Lindquist, Melissa Simones

Review and Approve Minutes from January meeting

Motion to approve minutes from 01/08/14 – Marianne, second - Elizabeth, all in favor.

Review and Approve Law School Student Interns - Jen

Met with three candidates. Suggest bringing Bre Kidman on board for the Reports Committee. Job description written for an Outreach intern. Regina will work on one for a Reports intern. The law school has no concerns with the Commission taking two interns. Any concerns or questions, let Jen know. Jen will reach out to Bre by Friday and ask if she would like to attend the May meeting.

Committee Reports/Updates:

Report – Committee met on 1/29/14. Regina, Sarah, Sam, Elizabeth, and Holly (Outreach) participated. Focused on committee's charge. Agreed to update the 2012 report. How was the report used/could be used this time? Possibly by other groups. Perhaps use a dashboard format to highlight important info from the report. Survey would supplement the thorough info in the report. Meeting again this afternoon. Anyone welcome to join. Focus today is a job description for our intern. Send examples to Regina. Please review the last report and look at anything that jumps out at you that's out of date. We might provide an addendum. Let us know if you are aware of a new indicator coming out. Keep in mind that we tried to use reports that would be repeated for benchmarks. Not required if you find helpful/important info in another study.

Outreach – Jen

Committee met two weeks ago on how to formulate plans over several months. Planning an Outreach Survey like in 2012. Last time we received 1100 responses. No budget for paid survey work. Survey Monkey donated by MCEDV. Intern will need to analyze and predict where gaps will be and help us get info to reach more respondents. Please let Jen know of any groups that you are willing to share our survey with to encourage them to respond. Sarah/Maine Women's Fund has a list of groups that may be the starting point. Jen will follow-up with Sara and AARP director to let her know what we are doing and see if she has thoughts on how we can get the survey to AARP.

Rebekah – Immigrant Legal Advocacy could help if/when appropriate.

Elizabeth – Native women were well under sampled in last report.

Any questions on 2012 survey? – Jen

Send Outreach specific tweaks/adds to survey. Would like to vote at a main meeting to finalize the survey so that the intern can get it out by the end of May. Should not lengthen. Need to think hard about altering questions if we are using it as a benchmark tool. May not be able to compare to

previous results. Did our best not to have open ended questions for this reason. Left the last question open.

- Jessica – Suggest using lesbian rather than sexual orientation and ask about transgender; older women rather than elderly. How can we modify and still capture bench marks? Address housing with access to community services and home repair. Personal safety is different for an older adult struggling to live at home.
- Transportation will be added to number 2 as a challenge issue.
- Amy - Frame#4 like #6. Number 7- clarify who is the “we”?
- Elizabeth – Your perspective at large about women, not necessarily yourself.
- Jessica nominated by Elizabeth to be on Outreach committee.
- Regina – Now is the time if we were going to make a change to our survey.

Jen reached out to Critical Insights. They asked if people wanted to have a question added to their survey. Costs \$700 (600 person survey).

Finance - Marianne chair, Rebekah, Sharon. Looking for additional members and to set the first meeting date. Marianne will suggest dates for a conference call for brainstorming. Conference call number donated by MECASA. Jess and Regina will participate in call to share fundraising and grant writing experience.

Governance – vacancy updates – Elizabeth

Seat 11/Sharon Campbell open. At large seat. Women in farming potential or health care.

Seat 7/Brenda Commander open. Any advice on federal tribal resident of the state for membership? Please email Elizabeth with thoughts of possible members.

Nomination for Seat 4/Romy (Gov) – Governance Committee recommends Gary Walcott. He is the Associate Director of Care and Innovation at DHHS. Recommended by Holly Stover. He has a demonstrated record of working in leadership positions and working in disability services. Worked closely with Pearson who conducted a study on domestic violence with brain injury persons. Works across disability services.

Motion to accept the recommendation of Gary Walcott to fill Seat 4 on the Permanent Commission on the Status of Women - Jen, second – Regina, all in favor.

Nomination for Seat 17/Speaker – Governance Committee recommends Jessica Laliberte. She was formerly with the Maine Chamber of Commerce and has done media work with Time Warner and WABI in Bangor. She was a teacher before working at the Chamber. Has interest in girls’ issues. Business/teaching/media background. She’s enthusiastic and would like to serve.

Motion to accept the recommendation of Jessica Laliberte to fill Seat 17 on the Permanent Commission on the Status of Women - Regina, second – Jess, all in favor.

Commission Chair – Andrea Irwin agreed to chair the commission. Governance Committee recommends her.

Motion to accept the recommendation of Andrea Irwin to chair the Permanent Commission on the Status of Women – Jen, second – Holly, all in favor.

These are recommendations of the Commission. It is up to the Governor and Speaker to appoint them. I will reach out to them to let them know what the Commission has decided and assist with application materials.

Google Docs Site – Elizabeth

The Commission had a Google Doc site for first report and the member hosting it left the commission. The Commission decided to recreate it. Questions arose whether it was redundant with what is posted on the SOS site and updating stopped at that point. As long as the minutes and public meetings are available, it meets public access. Google Docs is not private. Committee chairs will have editing permission for now, plus Nikki for minutes. Regina will work with Elizabeth to get login info and setting up a spot for subcommittees to post notes/minutes/use for email management.

New England Women's Policy Commission Forum November -Holly

Holly attended the last in-person planning meeting in Boston in January representing our commission. Will share minutes. Unable to participate in subsequent conference call. Waiting for minutes of call.

They are planning to go ahead with the conference tentatively on 11/7/14. Title: The Unfinished Agenda, New England Women's Policy Conference. All day event at JFK library. UMASS Boston next door. Keynote: Maria Shriver w/Shriver Report on Women in Poverty. Holly will circulate the link to the report.

Would like Susan Collins and Rep. Rosa DeLauro as honorary co-chairs. Want Maine to make request to Collins. Will include doing introduction. Short film at lunch about the 50th Anniversary of the Presidential Commission on the Status of Women. Will ask co-chairs to speak at that time. Melissa may ask Collins.

Jess – Collins chairs the Special Commission on Aging. Any specifics around older adults/our aging demographic? 75% of people over ___ in Maine are women. Would she be willing to talk about the impact on poverty on older women?

Attempting to corporate fundraise for attendance cost. Denise Shultz is the chair of the planning committee. NH and CT want ME to talk about paid benefits and minimum wage.

Other Business - Nikki

NACW dues paid. Please review contact lists. Currently have bios for Jen, Melissa and Regina.

Adjourn – 1:35 pm

Motion to adjourn - Jen, second – Marianne, all in favor.

Next Meeting is Wednesday, May 14, 2014.